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REMARKS

This is an amendment filed as a submission under 37 CFR 1.114 Request for Continued Examination. Claims 1-7, 9-18, and 20-32 are pending and are presented herein without amendment. The Specification and Abstract are amended herein to more clearly define the subject matter of the present application. No new matter has been introduced. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner allow the claims of the above-referenced patent application and permit the application to proceed to issuance.

The Examiner's statements of reasons for allowance are hereby acknowledged by Assignee. Assignee agrees that the claimed subject matter is patentably distinct from the documents cited by the Examiner; however, Assignee takes no position regarding the reasons for allowance presented by the Examiner, other than the positions Assignee may have previously taken during prosecution of the above-referenced patent application. Therefore, the Examiner's reasons for allowance should not be attributed to Assignee as an indication of the basis for Assignees' belief that the claims are patentably distinct. Furthermore, it is respectfully asserted that there may also be additional reasons for patentability of the claimed subject matter not explicitly stated in this record. While in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(e), a failure by the Assignee to disagree with the Examiner, or file more detailed comments, does not give rise to any implication that the Assignee agrees with or acquiesces in the reasoning of the Examiner, here, by this document, Assignee is expressly making clear that no such agreement or acquiescence is present.

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Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, consideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney, James J. Lynch, at (503)439-6500 if there remains any issue with allowance.

Additional fees

Any fees or extensions of time believed to be due in connection with this amendment are enclosed herein; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-3703.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Assignee

Dated: December 20, 2006

/James J. Lynch Reg. No. 50,153/

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